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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/718,592	11/24/2003	Umberto Scarpellini	22106-00048-US	1230
30678	7590	07/13/2004	EXAMINER	
CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP			DINH, PHUONG K	
SUITE 800			ART UNIT	
1990 M STREET NW			PAPER NUMBER	
WASHINGTON, DC 20036-3425			2839	

DATE MAILED: 07/13/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application N .	Applicant(s)	
	10/718,592	SCARPELLINI ET AL. <i>AK</i>	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Phuong KT Dinh	2839	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-17 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18--29, 34-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 30-33 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>07/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 24 and 30 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 24, line 4, "the electrical equipment" has lack antecedence basis.

Claim 30, removed the closed parentheses at the end of the paragraph.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 18-20, 25-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chewning Jr. (U. S. Patent 4,469,393).

Regarding claim 18, Chewning, see figures 1 and 2, discloses a connector device comprising: a substantially parallelepipedal structure with a first pair, a second pair and a third pair of faces set opposite to one another, see figure 2, wherein each face of the first pair of faces is designed to receive coupling means 33 and at least two faces of the second and third pair of faces include mechanism coupling means.

Regarding claim 19, Chewning discloses the mechanical coupling means 33 is suitable for connection to low-voltage electrical equipment and corresponding accessories.

Regarding claim 25, Chewning, see figures 1-2, discloses mechanical coupling means for connection to the electrical equipment are positioned on both of the faces of the third pair of faces.

Regarding claim 26, Chewning, see figures 1-2, discloses mechanical coupling means for connection to a further connection device are positioned on one face of the second pair of faces.

Regarding claim 27, Chewning, see figures 1-2, discloses the mechanical coupling means are jointing means.

Regarding claim 28, Chewning, see figures 1-2, discloses the mechanical coupling means are sliding means.

Regarding claim 29, Chewning, see figures 1-2, discloses a voltage apparatus comprising: a substantially parallelepipedal structure with a front wall, a rear wall, and a first sidewall and second side wall.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chewning in view of David (U. S. Patent 5,421,746).

Regarding claim 21, Chewning discloses the claimed invention except for cables one or more cables are positioned on one face of the first pair of faces and one or more plugs are positioned on the other face of the first pair of faces. David discloses one or cables 3, socket 1. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Chewning to provide plug, cables and socket as taught by Duck so as to provide current.

Regarding claims 22- 23, Chewning discloses the claimed invention except for one or more sockets are positioned on one face of the first pair of faces and one or more plugs are positioned on the other face of the first pair of faces. Wu discloses adapter 30. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Chewning to provide the adapter as taught by Wu so as to joint parts together.

Claims 34 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chewning in view of Duck (U. S. Patent 2003/0194914).

Regarding claims 34 and 35, Chewning discloses the claimed invention except for the apparatus are circuit and disconnecter. Duck, column 1, lines 50-56, discloses a mounted to a mechanism. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Chewning to provide the connector to equipment of different types include circuit break, switch and could be mounted onto any type of equipment as taught by Duck so as to provide the signal power to mechanism.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 30-33 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

For claims 30-33, the connector device as tied in by claim limitations with specific feature of the low voltage apparatus define patentably over Chewing and the other cited reference.

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phuong KT Dinh whose telephone number is 571-272-2090. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 -5, 5 days a week.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Field can be reached on 571-272-2092. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2839

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Examiner


Phuong Dinh
July 08, 2004.